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Obs.—This species is a valuable acquisition to Malacology, as it enables us to place the genus Ancylus among the Limneans, where it has hitherto held but a doubtful place. Any one who has examined the animal of Ancylus, cannot have failed to observe its similarity to Planorbis; and some authors assert that it ascends to the surface of the water to breathe *air*. This I doubted, because the species with which I am familiar, inhabit the interior of bivalve shells, or the surface of stones in rapid water; whence it is impossible for them to rise to the surface, and regain their previous position. I hence infer that they breathe *water*, as well as the Physa above described, inhabiting as it does, the middle of a river, in rapids nearly two feet deep at low water, and without objects rising above the surface. It is highly probable that air-breathing Ancyli exist; and it is even possible that the same organ may be adapted to the respiration of both air and water.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.—Professor Johnson offered some remarks on the specimens of Anthracite and Fossil charcoal presented by him this evening. These observations are necessarily reserved for a future number.

STATED MEETING, SEPTEMBER, 14, 1841.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO CABINET.

Collection of exotic Birds stuffed and mounted, presented by Dr. James A. M'Crea, viz.:

Oriolus melanocephalus; Alcedo ispida; Merops viridis, (2 specimens;) Psittacus Bengalensis; Fringilla Bengalensis; Alcedo Smyrnensis; Tanagra rubra; Muscicapa ruticella;

Fringilla cyanea; Icteria dumicola; Lanius solarius; Coracius nævia; Sylvia striata; Bucco cyanocollis; Sturnus ——— ; Coblepyris ———.

Fossils from the vicinity of Sunbury, presented by Professor Johnson, viz.: internal cast of a Productus, and three specimens of Juglandites, (Parkinson.)

50 specimens of minerals from Nova Scotia, presented by Dr. Gessner, of St. Johns, New Brunswick, viz.: Stilbite, Thomsonite, Laumonite, Oxide of Manganese, Amethyst, Agate, Mesotype, Jasper, Specular iron, Calcedony, Hematite, Sulphate of Barytes, Magnetic oxide of iron, Chabasie and Sulphate of lime.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Stockholm's Flora eller Korrt beskrifning af de vid Stockholm i vildt tillstand forekommande Vaxter. Af Joh. Em̀. Wikstrom. 8vo. Stockholm, 1840. From the Author.

Report of an Examination of the Bear Valley Coal District in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania. By Walter R. Johnson, A. M. 8vo. Philadelphia, 1841. From the Author.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—A letter was read from Mr. W. D. Newman, Secretary of the U. S. Naval Lyceum at Brooklyn, N. Y. returning thanks on the part of the Society for a copy of the Academy's Journal presented to them.

A communication was also read from the Cav. Ferdinando Tartini, Secretary of the Italian Scientific Convention, announcing the third Annual *Reunion* to take place at Florence in September of the present year.

A paper was read from Dr. Edmund Ravenel, of Charleston, South Carolina, in reference to some organic remains of Crustacea, &c. discovered by him in the fossiliferous beds to the west of that city, viz.:

"Description of two new species of Fossil Scutella, from South Carolina, by Edmund Ravenel, M. D.

" Scutella Caroliniana.—Specific character: nearly round; slightly convex above; posterior margin truncated; ambulacra short, elliptical, the two posterior slightly curved and nearly a third longer than the others; in a line with each there is an oblong perforation extending almost to the margin; between the two posterior ambulacra, there is another perforation, longer than the others, and more central, at the extremity of which, beneath, near the mouth, is the vent. Mouth central; diameter about six inches.

Scutella macrophora. — Specific character: sub-ovate thick; margin thick, truncated posteriorily; notched slightly opposite the anterior ambulacrum; more deeply, opposite the lateral, and still more so opposite to the posterior ambulacra. Ambulacra elliptical; the posterior pair long, and gracefully curved, so as to give room between them, for a very large irregular perforation, the margin of which is considerably raised, extending to the centre of the shell, giving the upper surface a remarkable elevation. The under surface is flat, rather hollow, particularly near the opening; mouth anterior to the centre; anus distant from the mouth one-fourth of the space from the mouth to the posterior margin.

Diameter of large specimens nearly four inches.

These fine fossils are found in a calcareous deposite upon my plantation on Cooper River, in St. Thomas's Parish, about 17 miles from Charleston.

The limestone is granular, and remarkably adapted to the purposes of calcareous manure.

In digging it out and spreading it on the fields, these fossils are found in considerable numbers; the S. macrophora is particularly abundant and perfect. The S. Caroliniana is also abundant, but from its size, and the number of openings in it, it is very easily broken, and is only obtained in fragments. I have only one perfect specimen and that is not quite 2½ inches in diameter.

In examining these fossils in the light, the surface exhibits bright chrystalline faces; the material of the shell seems to have become crystallized, since the destruction of the animal matter.

It is perhaps remarkable that many of the crustaceous remains in this deposit are well preserved, while the shells proper are for the most part decomposed. A few specimens of two or three species of Pecten, of one or two Ostreæ, a Plicatula and a Balanus, are occasionally met with, while imperfect casts of numerous species are very common."

The calcareous deposit to which the preceding fossils belong, is the newest cretaceous formation of Dr. Morton, who first described its relative position and organic remains in his Synopsis, published in 1834. Dr. M. supposed these beds to be of the same age of the white chalk of Europe; they are based on the ferruginous sand strata in New Jersey, North and South Carolina, Alabama, &c.; and the two deposits contain a few fossils which are specifically the same. In fact, the Eocene or lower tertiary, also embraces some species of shells identical with those of the newer cretaceous; whence the latter beds, like those of the celebrated plateau of Maestricht, may prove, as Dr. Mantell has suggested, to be a link between the chalk and the tertiary beds, without being contemporaneous with either.

Mr. Quinby made some remarks on the mineral resources and physical geography of that portion of Peru which embraces the eastern ridges of the Andes.

He alluded to the treasures which were secreted by the Peruvians at the epoch of the Spanish invasion, and which have never yet been found, notwithstanding the continued search of the inhabitants. But the river Chucabamba possesses natural treasures of great value, for its sands are auriferous for several leagues above and below the temple of the sun. The inhabitants procure it by cutting the wool on sheep skins to half an inch in length, and then sinking them in the rapids, and at the base of the falls of the river, in which position the skins with the woolly side up, are suffered to remain from six to twenty-four hours. They are then carefully removed from the water, and turned wool side down into a *batea* or tub of water; the gold is thus washed out, and is collected without further trouble.

Mr. Quinby adverted to the celebrated ruins of the Temple of the Sun at Huanuco viejo, (Tiaguanico*) the Cyclopean fortress,—the walls composed of enormous masses of square and oblong stones of marble, greenstone and greenstone-porphyry,—all which, with their bas reliefs and other ornaments, remain in a remarkable state of preservation. These ruins, as is well known, date beyond the dynasty of the Incas, to a people, however, of the same race, and probably of nearly similar political and religious institutions.

Mr. Quinby crossed and recrossed the Andes twenty-four times, at seven or eight different passes; twice from Naranjal, (on the gulf of Guayaquil, one degree and a half south of the equator,) to the city of Cuanca, the capital of the province of Assuay, a little south of Chimborazo; and having spent more than two weeks at the foot of the Peak of Raura, at least a thousand feet above the line of perpetual snow, he pronounces it the most sublime spot he has visited on the Andean range. Besides the Peak of Raura, which he believes to be at least as high as Chimborazo, there are innumerable smaller ones rising on the range of the Cordilleras, to the north and south, having their bases resting on perpetual snow, and throwing up their snow-clad apices into the pure and attenuated atmosphere, almost beyond the reach of the Condor itself.

The largest and nearest of these peaks is that of Nueva Potosi, the base of which approaches within one league of that of Raura; and the intervening space is occupied by the lake called also Neuva Potosi, the surface of which is about 500 feet above the lower limit of perpetual snow; and as this line, within the tropics is not less than 15,500 feet above the level of the ocean, the lake must consequently have an elevation of 16,000 feet. The water of this lake makes its escape by a subterranean passage on the western slope of the Andes, and also gives rise to the river Haura, which reaches the Pacific at Huacho, the celebrated *salinas* of the southern hemisphere. Mr. Quinby also described the Lake of Raura, one league north of that of Potosi, and giving rise to one of the principal branches of the Amazon. Both of these lakes are the frequent receptacles of avalanches of ice and snow from the superjacent mountains, presenting the rumbling sound and tremulous sensation of an earthquake, and forcing vast bodies of water over the precipice to make their way by the courses of the Amazon to the Atlantic ocean, a distance of five thousand miles.

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*See page 36 of these Proceedings.

STATED MEETING, SEPTEMBER 21, 1841.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO CABINET.

Mr. Ashmead presented the following specimens for the geological collection :

Bowlder of secondary limestone, containing many beautifully preserved Cyrtoceræ, Orthoceræ, &c., found on the northern shore of Lake Ontario.

Asaphus Wetherellii, (Green.)

Platynotus Boltoni, (Conrad.)

Fucoides Harlani, (Conrad.)

Cariocrinus ornatus, (Say,) and the tail of Bumastus Barriensis, (Murchison,) the head of a Platynotus, and several varieties of Corallines.

Chrystallized fieldspar, from Rossie, New York.

A framed portrait of William Hembel, Esq., president of the society, painted by Mr. John Neagle, was presented by the following members:—Charles A. Poulson, Samuel George Morton, John P. Wetherill, William S. Vaux, George W. Carpenter, Thomas Fisher, Caspar W. Pennock, Alfred L. Elwyn, Henry F. Leib, Thomas Nuttall, Judah Dobson, Lardner Vanuxem, Robert Pearsall, Charles A. Poulson, Jr., Charles N. Bancker, Robert Bridges, James C. Booth, Paul B. Goddard, Joseph Carson, Thomas D. Mutter.